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Public Health Committee
Re: HB 7292 "An Act Concerning Social Workers Title Protection"
March 7, 2019

Greetings Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am writing regarding the 2019 "Act Concerning Social Workers Title Protection" and in particular the use of specific language that limits the title "Social Worker" to only those who have received their license. This bill would not cover those social workers who are performing community work on a macro level, providing critical support to the vulnerable citizens of our state.

Title protection has significant implications for those who have invested considerable time to the cultural, ethical and therapeutic components of social work. Those who have completed the vigorous and extensive training offered by accredited universities, have prepared themselves for the level of care and intervention that social workers are ethically bound by. I have personally worked in social services for close to 25 years, yet my work experience has not fully prepared me for the complexity and intricacies of the Social Work profession. As MSW student, I have been made acutely aware that proper training and preparation are paramount to ensuring treatment and interventions that are not only based in evidence, but also clinically supervised and vetted as well. This only helps to ensure that care is provided in a manner that meets the standards set by the National Association of Social Workers and that people seeking assistance are met by trained and experienced Social Workers.

Thirty-five states have approved this title protection. Thirty-five states recognize the need to protect those receiving care. It is time Connecticut recognizes this standard as well and for residents to receive care that they need and deserve.

Thank you,

Brenda Bryant